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## **RUM RUNNER'S PARTY ON THE BEACH RAISES \$223,000 FOR CRYSTAL COVE ALLIANCE**

**NEWPORT COAST, Calif., Sept. 29, 2010** – Fringe, feathers and fedoras made a comeback Saturday night at the Crystal Cove Alliance's 8th Annual Beach Gala: [Rum Runner's Party & Jazz on the Beach](#) presented by Pelican Hill Resort. More than 400 guests, clad in flapper dresses and pinstripe suits, turned out for the Prohibition-themed affair, which honored the beach community's development during the early 1930s. The event netted \$223,000, a nearly 30 percent increase from last year, to help fund CCA's mission of restoration, education and conservation and support the expansion of the nonprofit's educational programs.

"We couldn't be more pleased with the results of this year's gala," said Laura Davick, founder and director of external affairs for Crystal Cove Alliance. "The event has sold out every year, and this year was no exception. We are honored to have so many members of the Orange County community fighting alongside us for the continuous preservation of this historic coastal gem."

Rum Runner's party guests arrived at 6 p.m. and were led onto the beach on the south end of the Crystal Cove Historic District where the gala was held. Attendees enjoyed authentic Prohibition cocktails, including the "Dark and Stormy" and "Rum Runner's Grog" while indulging in various butler-passed canapés, such as bluefin tuna tartar and Scottish smoked salmon with caviar.

After a slow sunset on the sandy speakeasy, Brenna Whitaker and her Little Big Band took the stage, performing early twentieth century hits like "Big Spender" and "Hi De Ho/Minnie the Moocher." Guests dined on gourmet coastal cuisine provided by Pelican Hill Resort and Montage Laguna Beach while performers from the Chapman University theatrical student group CAST, dressed in complete Prohibition-era costumes, danced the Jive and Charleston and enticed guests to join in all the rug-cutting festivities.

Gala proceeds were generated through sponsorships, educational program underwriting, ticket sales, general donations, a live auction and fund a need program. The auction featured several exclusive items, including a science-themed two-night stay package in the Crystal Cove cottage #22 Park and Marine Research Facility. Also up for bids, a seafood grill for 12 at Dennis Morin's "Rock House" included table service provided by CCA President Harry Helling, Laura Davick and event chairs Teddie Ray and Linda Kennedy.

Among the 420 in attendance, notable guests included Rep. John Campbell, Director of California State Parks Ruth Coleman, Newport Beach City Councilwoman Leslie Daigle and Assemblyman Pedro Nava.

The three-course menu, based on five-star hotel menus from the Prohibition era, was created by Pelican Hill Resort Executive Chef Jean-Pierre Dubray and Montage Laguna Beach Executive Chef Rob Wilson.

Proceeds from the gala traditionally account for 60 to 70 percent of CCA's annual operating budget. The funds also benefit new educational programs that promote the appreciation and protection of California State Park's natural, cultural and historic resources. Broken into three themes, the programs include: Arts in the Park – which builds on the 90-year tradition of plein-air artists celebrating the beauty of the land and seascapes; Science and Nature in the Park – which connects, in interesting ways, visitors to the current scientific research; and Living History – which offers visitors the opportunity to relive a part of Crystal Cove's colorful past.

Crystal Cove Alliance 8th Annual Beach Gala: Rum Runner's Party and Jazz on the Beach official sponsors include: Pelican Hill Resort; The Beachcomber Café; HKA, Inc. Public Relations; Montage Laguna Beach; Louise and Dan Brigham; Crystal Cove Beach Cottages; Wendy and Rick Aversano; Coast Magazine; Anonymous; Dunkel Bros. Machinery Moving; 4Leaf, Inc.; First Foundation Bank; Joan Irvine-Smith and Athalie R. Clarke Foundation; Miller Environmental; Queen of Sports.com; Teddie Ray; Roger's Gardens; Samueli Foundation; Southern California Edison; UCI Executive Vice-Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for Research; United Group Limited – Equis; United Group Limited – Unicco; Lucy Bender; Brigitte and Jose Collazo; Carol and John Cummings; Envelopments, Inc.; Fostering Executive Leadership, Inc – Dr. Tammy Wong; Irvine Ranch Water District; Jackson Lewis, LLP; Deborah King, Wayne & Dona Leicht, Soka University of America; William G. Steele, III, Jill Schrader Steele, Jennifer A. Steele; UCI – School of Biological Sciences. Culinary sponsors for this year's Gala are Pelican Hill Resort Executive Chef Jean Pierre Dubray; and Montage Laguna Beach Executive Chef Rob Wilson.

### **About Crystal Cove Alliance**

Crystal Cove Alliance is the official nonprofit partner of Crystal Cove State Park dedicated to preserving the cultural, natural and historic resources of Crystal Cove. Founded in 1999 to stop a planned luxury resort from overtaking the area, CCA was instrumental in rescuing the historic site and initiated one of the most successful public-private partnership models in the history of the California State Park system.

Today, CCA is committed to preserving the coastal legacy through education, conservation and restoration. The partnership between Crystal Cove State Park and the Crystal Cove Alliance led to the renovation of 22 historic, beachfront cottages that are now open for overnight stays to the public; a feat that earned the park the prestigious Governor's Historic Preservation Award in 2007. A leader in fundraising, restoration, education and concession services, CCA is devoted to creating a sustainable future for Crystal Cove.

For more information, please visit [www.crystalcovealliance.org](http://www.crystalcovealliance.org)

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